III

AN EASTERN WESTMINSTER ABBEY

THE men and women who have lived in Delhi make fiction dull, and second to none appeals to our imagination the life of Humayun, as his tomb makes him of all Delhi heroes most beautiful in death.

The Mahomedan Kings of India were as sumptuous in their death shrines as in their palaces during life, and each famous tomb has its own special characteristics. The Gol Gornbaz, the tomb of Mahomed Shah of Bijapur, the Charles II. of India, is noted for its enormous size. It has the largest dome in the world, larger even than that of the Pantheon of Rome. It is as though Ma-homed, the Merry Monarch, mindful of death in the midst of his mistresses and his minstrels, was desperately determined at all costs that his name should live in the minds of men. Was he uncertain of the after life ?

At any rate, the tomb of the great sybarite or the Deccan dominates the land for miles

round.